

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-20 are now in the application. Claims 1, 15, and 16 have been amended. Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 17-20 have been added.

In item 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-16 as being obvious over Gardill (U.S. 5,614,285) in view of Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to define more clearly the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 11, lines 1-9 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, a brief review of the invention as claimed is provided. Amended claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a multilayer composite body for the production of components or performs having the following features:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials,  
said thermoplastic layers defining a volume and  
forming an outer component surface of a component  
within said volume;

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natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers.

Amended claim 1 now includes the features of claim 9.

Specifically, the thermoplastic layers are a cast molded from a component. As further defined in claims 17-19, the outer component surface can be a molded-in functional element such as a fixing strip or rib.

The surfaces described in Gardill are not casts of functional elements.

Accordingly, none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Amended claim 13 also includes these same features. Therefore, claims 1 and 13 are patentable over the art. And, since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1 or 13, they are patentable as well.

In addition to the reasons argued above, claim 6 is patentable over the prior art for the following additional reasons. In the final Office action, the Examiner renewed the rejections made in the August 16, 2000, Office action regarding claim 6.

Claim 6 describes a multilayer composite body having the following pertinent features:

said thermoplastic layers are first and second thermoplastic layers covering and bonded with said outer surfaces of said first and second natural fiber layers as an outer layer. (Emphasis added by Applicant.)

This invention as claimed includes a textile fabric that is intermixed and bound with thermoplastic fibers. The special bound that is created by the claimed invention is described in the specification at page 11, lines 11-20.

Gardill discloses an outer thermoplastic layer (35) in Fig. 2. In addition, the Examiner cites "Textile Science" on page 313 as teaching that fabric is merely to be coated with plastic on both sides.

For this additional reason, the references do not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 6.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-20 are solicited. In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, please telephone counsel so that patentable language can be substituted. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it will place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search. No additional search is required because the features have all been included before; regarding claims 17-20, see especially originally filed claim 9.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of three months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) for a small entity in the amount of \$445 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

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Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

LOREN DONALD PEARSON  
REG. NO. 42,987

LDP:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.  
Post Office Box 2480  
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480  
Tel: (954) 925-1100  
Fax: (954) 925-1101

Version with Markings to Show Changes:

Cancel claim 9.

Claim 1 (thrice amended). A multilayer composite body for the production of components or preforms, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials, said thermoplastic layers defining a volume and forming an outer component surface of a component within said volume;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers.

Claim 13 (thrice amended). A motor vehicle component or perform produced from a multilayer composite, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials, said thermoplastic layers defining a volume and forming an outer component surface of a component within said volume;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers.

Claim 15 (amended). The multilayer composite body according to claim [9] 1, wherein said component surface is a molded-in functional element.

Claim 16 (amended). The multilayer composite body according to claim [9] 1, wherein said component surface is a surface structure.

Add the Following Claim:

--17. The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said component is a molded-in functional element.--

--18. The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said component is a fixing strip.--

--19. The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said component is a rib.--

--20. The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said component is a visually effective surface structure.--